

Parsons Nursery, Civilian Conservation
Corps Garage
South side of U.S. Route 219, .25 miles
southeast of Parsons
Parsons Vicinity
Tucker County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-237-Q

HABS
WVA
47-PARS.V,
1Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HABS No. WV-237-Q
PARSONS NURSERY, Civilian Conservation Corps Garage

Location: South side of U. S. Route 219, .25 miles east of Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia

USGS Parsons Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.614837.4327560

Present Owner: Monongahela National Forest
Department of Agriculture
Sycamore Street, Box 1548
Elkins, WV 26241

Last Occupant: Department of Natural Resources
State of West Virginia

Last Use: Storage; vacant

Significance: The Civilian Conservation Corps garage and the Civilian Conservation Corps blacksmith shop are the sole surviving buildings of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Parsons, designated number 518, and one of the first camps established in Monongahela National Forest in the spring and summer of 1933. This building survives largely intact, displaying its historic character except for some structural and material damage sustained during a flood in early November, 1985. From the closing of Camp Parsons in 1941 until 1985, this building was used for storage by the Parsons Nursery. Since the flood of November, 1985, Monongahela National Forest has used the building for storage. For overview of Parsons Nursery, see HABS No. WV-237.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1933, according to an interview with John King, chief of silviculture for this camp during the CCC era.
2. Architect: Neither architect nor landscape architect are known.
3. Original and subsequent owners:
 - 1933 Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Parsons.
 - 1941 Turned over to Parsons Nursery, Monongahela National Forest at the close of Camp Parsons.
 - 1951 Leased to Parsons Nursery, Department of Conservation (later Department of Natural Resources), State of West Virginia.
4. Builder: This garage was constructed by and for the Civilian Conservation Corps members of Camp Parsons.
5. Original Plans: None.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1941, the building was painted green, may have been altered and was moved from the original site. The building was damaged by flooding in November, 1985. Then this building was moved off its foundation, two doors and the sash in the north side of the building were removed.

B. Historical Context:

The few buildings from Camp Parsons that were not dismantled in the mid-1940s by the Parsons Nursery staff were altered for use by the nursery. The use of this building is not certain but, according to John King, was a truck garage and shop for Camp Parsons. It constructed in either 1933 or 1934. It stood on the east side of the lane that ran north-south through the Camp. It was used for storage and repair of equipment used in road and bridge construction, telephone line construction, fire break construction, and building construction.

The Parsons Nursery, both under the Forest Service and the State of West Virginia, used the building for storage.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This garage building is typical of Civilian Conservation Corps construction in West Virginia, a one-story gable roof building. CCC buildings utilized readily available lumber stock in structures with board-and-batten exteriors and exposed structural interiors. They were meant to be standardized, quickly constructed, unadorned and functional. Most buildings and Camp layouts were relatively standard throughout the United States. Because Camp Parsons had a flat site, it could conform to the national standards both for site design and building character.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is not structurally sound. Flood damage has shifted the structure away from its foundation. The back wall has broken and buckled from the sill about 4' feet from the north corner. The interior sash on the north is missing as are the northern double doors. The floor is covered with several feet of sand. There are numerous holes in the flooring. The northeast corner at the sill is open to the weather and leaks.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: A one-story, rectangular plan, this building is 40'-3" x 16'-4". It is three bays wide and one bay deep.
2. Foundation: Presently there is none; originally it was 8" x 16" x 8" cinder block.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are board-and-batten composed of 3/4" x 9" boards and 1/2" x 3" battens, both of yellow pine. There are 4 1/2" plain corner boards. Sill-roof dimension at corners 7'-7", sill-peak dimension 11'-8". There is no diagonal wind-brace sheathing, like the other Nursery Bottom buildings.
4. Structural system, framing: The floor deck is made of "2x6's" spaced at the same intervals as the "2x4" wall studs, at 28"-41" spacing. A "1x6" pine flooring without tongue-and-groove is laid on the sills. The wall frame of "2x4's" has horizontal "2x4" nailers for the board-and-batten siding at 37-1/2" above the floor. Corner posts are doubled "2x4's", as are doorway and window frames and heads. There is a wall plate of double "2x4's", 7'-0" above the floor. The roof framing is

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"2x6's" on 24" centers with a "1x6" ridge board. All the above framing is southern yellow pine. Chestnut "2x4" lumber ties each pair of rafters. There is a "1x4" tongue-and-groove board as a king post from the top of the rafters to the chestnut plate ties.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: None

6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: There are two double and one single doorways on the front elevation. All doorways have 4-1/2" jambs and 3" heads, butt-jointed with a 1/2" extension of the head beyond the jamb. Three of the five doors survive. Each has five plywood panels with 4-1/2" top style, 3-3/4" intermediate styles and a 9" bottom style, all double pegged into 4" side styles. All doors are pine.

b. Windows and shutters: The rear elevation has five windows, the north elevation has two, the south, one. All windows are the same. Each has 4-1/2" jamb, 4-5/8" head and 1-1/2" sill. Head and sill extend 1/2" beyond the jambs. They have 3'-6" x 2'-8" openings. There is no exterior hardware. There never were exterior shutters.

8. Roof: The gable roof has modern asphalt rolled roofing over "1x6" sheathing and rafter ends exposed 20". The gable overhang is 12" with "1x4" rake boards. The infill between the rafters are "1x6's" set at a slight angle at the top.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The rectangular building has two rooms, each accessed from the exterior doors. There is a connecting interior window, perhaps used to pass tools from the shop to the equipment bays. The south room is marked "shop" on its exterior door.

2. Stairways: None.

3. Flooring: The floor is "1x6" edge-to-edge yellow pine.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The framing is exposed and unfinished. Tongue-and-groove southern yellow pine boards cover the shop wall shared with the other room and the west wall of the bigger room.

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5. Openings: Both door and window facings are the same, 5-1/4" x 3/4", with the head and sill notched in. Stops are mitered at corners. Interior mounted window sash survives in one window. It is unpainted nine lights of 9x12 glass.
 6. Decorative features and trim: None.
 7. Hardware: Doors were held with two brass-plated iron hinges, 3 1/2" x 1-1/2". One surviving hasp is of iron strap, jointed, 1 3/4" x 7". The hook plate is also manufactured iron, 1" x 1-1/2". There is a blacksmith-made iron strap on the outside, swing edge of one door, 3/8" thick, 18" long and bolted at each end. Window sash is hung by brass-plated plain hinges at the top and has a brass-plated spring bolt catch and plate with a rounded, colonial upper end.
 8. Mechanical equipment: There is neither heating system nor plumbing. Knob-and-tube wiring survives along the top of the ceilings in both rooms.
 9. Original furnishings: None.
- D. Site: This building survives on a severely disturbed site that shows none of its historic character. It faces south, 170°.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: None.
- B. Historic views: Forest Service photographs, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV. Mary Gaudineer photographic copies, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, WV. John King photograph, John King, Berea, KY.
- C. Interviews: Alvin Allison, 7-23-1989, Charleston, WV, Parsons Nursery manager, 1952-1957; Arthur (Dick) Fansler, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV, Forest Service employee, 1946-1986; Delbert Little, 6-10-1989, Elkins, WV, CCC member, Camp Parsons, 1934-42; John King, 9-5-1989, Cranberry Lake, NY, silviculture supervisor, CCC Camp Parsons, 1933-39.
- D. McKim, C. R., Monongahela National Forest History, unpublished manuscript, November, 1970.

Monongahela National Forest, Cultural Resource Survey, CCC Camps, Fire Towers, Administrative Sites, unpublished manuscript, 1986.

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Otis, Alison T, William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, Kimberly K. Lakin, The Forest Service and The Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1986.

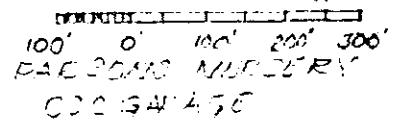
Salmond, John A, The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study, Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 1967.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

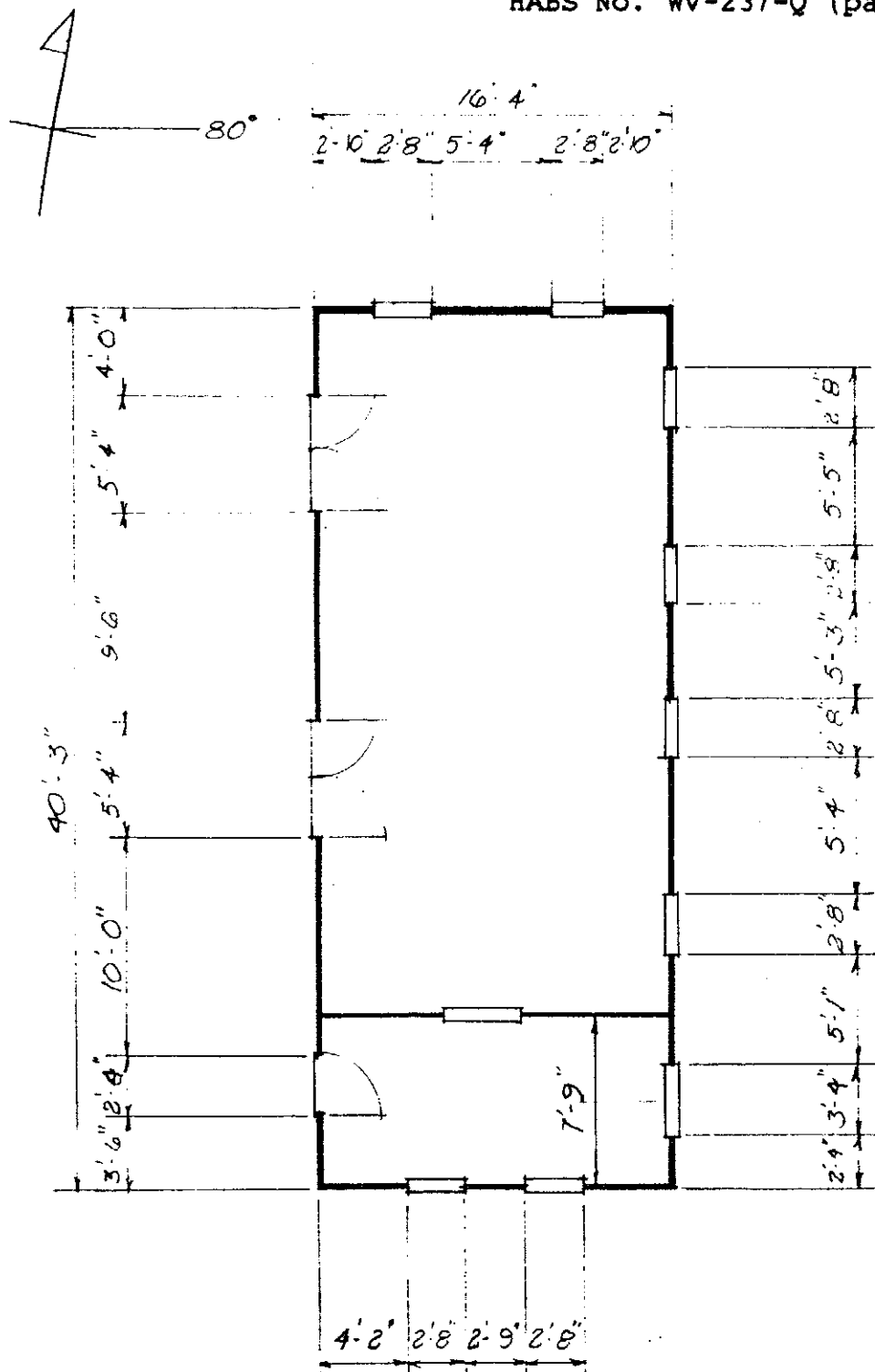
The architectural and historical documentation of the Parsons Nursery Bottom site has been undertaken to fulfill a memorandum of agreement signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the West Virginia SHPO and the USDA Forest Service as part of requirements under regulation 36 CFR 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Recording is taking place prior to substantial modification and/or removal of structures damaged by a flood in November, 1985.

This documentation has been prepared by: Rebecca M. Rogers, Preservation Consultant, 44 Audubon Road, Youngstown, Ohio, under contract to Monongahela National Forest, April-November, 1989.

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